

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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DECEMBER, 1931

Father, mother, and child form a triune life-whole—a family. The child creates the family and the family-life by its advent; and, on the other hand, man's continuous presence on earth is indispensably linked with the family. The family and the child reciprocally condition each other; neither exists without the other; they form in themselves an inseparable unit.

—FROEBEL

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD IN NEW YORK, OCTOBER 30 AND 31, 1931

There were present Cheney C. Jones, in the chair, Mrs. S. S. Drury, Concord, N. H., Miss Katharine F. Lenroot, Washington, Edgar R. Bamberger, Newark, Douglas P. Falconer, Buffalo, Owen R. Lovejoy, New York, Albert F. Whitman, Boston, Miss Jessie P. Condit, secretary, and Mr. Carstens, Executive Director.

The following were announced as chairmen of committees: *Executive Committee*—Cheney C. Jones; *Finance Committee*—Paul T. Beisser; *Standards of Membership*—Miss Katharine F. Lenroot; *Publications and Research*—Lawrence C. Cole; *Admission to Membership*—Jacob Kepecs; *Education and Training*—Miss Louise Drury; *Regional Conferences*—Douglas P. Falconer.

A committee on program for the Philadelphia meeting of the League at the time of the National Conference of Social Work next June was authorized and Henry W. Thurston was appointed chairman.

The Philadelphia Home for Infants, Philadelphia, and St. Edmund's Home for Boys, Glendale, Cincinnati, were accepted into membership.

The budget of \$41,865 as submitted by the Executive Director was adopted, subject to any changes which the Executive Committee may find it necessary to make during the year.

A committee was authorized to study the needs for a manual for board members in the children's field and if it deemed advisable to prepare one. Mrs. Charles R. Peck, Boston, has been invited to become chairman.

A motion was passed that members of the League in various areas be canvassed to determine the advisability of holding regional conferences within these areas,

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

A SUPERINTENDENT OF CHURCH INSTITUTION DISCUSSES ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS

A clear statement of certain handicaps under which many institutions for dependent children operate was given in a paper by Mr. R. F. Hough, Superintendent of the Baptist Orphanage of Virginia, at a conference on childhood and youth held in Richmond, November 23-24. Although he refers to institutions under church auspices his criticisms and suggestions apply to institutions generally.

"Some conditions which we find all too often in our church child-caring institutions are:

"1. Ill arranged plans of some of our buildings where children are to be cared for without adequate provision for keeping of clothing, with not enough ventilation, and insufficient light. Also sometimes we find one house mother required to look after three floors in a building.

"2. The number of children under the care of one house mother ranges from twenty-four to sixty and they represent as many different personalities. This is an impossible situation.

"3. Long hours. No provision for relief for our house mothers. We have sacrificed good house mothers on the altar of long hours and continuous weeks, months and even years of service without consideration of their physical strength.

"Church institutions are frequently limited in a financial way; hence we have been forced to economize, and in many cases we have cut our standard of service rather than serve a smaller number. We should raise our standards instead of lowering them.

"One heart-rending condition which results from shortage in our receipts is that in many instances we have employed inefficient women as house mothers. I believe we should secure the strongest personalities possible in our house mothers. House mothers are too frequently 'good old church members' who need a home themselves; often they have had their nervous systems so ravaged by trouble, anxieties, hard work and disappointments that it is humanly impossible for them to handle with efficiency the annoying details which make up the guidance of young lives bubbling over with energy and a desire to know and do.

"Often an executive of a child-caring institution supported by a church is urged, even implored, to employ a 'good' woman as house mother just because she is the widow, sister, aunt, or special friend of some prominent layman or preacher. Surely there is nothing against these qualifications, but they are not sufficient in themselves to determine whether a person is suited for such an important position as house mother, where

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

EVALUATION OF FOSTER HOMES

In an effort to portray more clearly some of the things a worker learns about the children placed in foster homes, the following summaries have been taken from the files of a member agency of the League. It is obvious that this material is chiefly factual and no attempts have been made to show process.

"Three brothers, ages 5, 7, 11.

"Excellent physical care given, as attention to teeth, bathing, exercise, diet. All have gained in weight and color, and are less fussy about food. The youngest child was quite nervous when placed in this home, but he is no longer so. Enuresis has ceased.

"When there are temper outbursts, segregation and lack of attention seem to be effective. Privileges are given when deserved and punishment takes the form of depriving of privileges. Leisure is spent in constructive outdoor play, simple forms of duties, reading and study. Visiting, driving, school and church socials and a weekly movie also comprise recreation. Playmates may be brought home, but their choice is supervised. Allowances are given. The children are extremely well liked by the boarding family and friends. The brothers have their differences in interests and ability but a spirit of fair play is inculcated and equal treatment is practiced. The children are happy in this home. There are love and respect for the boarding parents. School work and behavior within their ability are demanded. Obedience and harmony are insisted on and secured. Interest is taken in the school, the foster mother visiting the school occasionally and helping with home work. Also co-operation and aiding one another are taught as well as a division of labor. The family life seems unusually wholesome, happy and efficient.

"The father is away for long periods, but this does not upset routine and discipline. This family participates in all the social life of the community, which necessitates the boys' acquiring good manners.

"This home is best fitted for boys, preferably below 12."

"Two unrelated boys in the home, ages 8 and 9.

"Both boys have improved physically since placement. Personal hygiene is emphasized.

"Good habits are established by example and formal discussions. The children decide their own punishment; duties are required and must be carried out to the best of their ability. The boarding mother is dominant, but explains her prohibitions. Appeal is made to the child's intellect, rather than emotion. Schoolmates are welcomed, social gatherings encouraged, recreation considered important and leisure time distributed between play and duties. The boys have to care for their room, do the dishes and extra work on Saturdays. No partiality is shown. There are no young children. The boarding mother tries to compensate for the neglect of one of the boys by his mother and does not make unfavorable remarks to the children although she is critical to worker. The boys are happy in this home and are as responsive to the boarding mother as their nature and hers will allow. They are held to fairly high standards, but not above their ability. The home seems wholesome. There is some friction between the boarding

mother and the mother of one of the boys, the cause being valid and not entirely unavoidable.

"The boarding mother is a talker; enjoys discussing her success and insists that her standards and ideals are maintained. She is intelligent and fairly understanding but critical and not lenient to weaknesses. This home is best adapted to children under 12, either sex."

"One boy, age 16, in the home. Now working and paying his own board.

"Excellent physical care; plenty of good food; close attention to hygiene, appearance, and attendance at venereal clinic.

"High standards maintained and good habits established by sympathetic talks and intelligent handling of situations as they come up. There is wise supervision of leisure hours and an attempt to get the boy interested in wholesome friends and recreation; to arouse a desire to go to night school and to read. The boy's interest has been aroused in saving and he maintains an insurance policy. The boarding mother is firm and strict but the boy is content and happy here; in fact, accepts this as his home. He has responded well to training, which is mostly through suggestion. The boy is close to the family problems of illness and worry over finances. He aids about the house voluntarily, and is only too happy when given extra responsibility. Too much is not expected. This home is especially wholesome. It has met with adversities but through co-operation and loyalty has met them effectively. The boy is treated exactly as a son. The boarding father is not well, but still works when able. A crippled son now earning money on a newspaper job. The home life is particularly happy, with plenty of common sense, and wholesome interests.

"The home is best adapted for a boy 14 years or over. It is not available for another child."

"Two unrelated girls, age 13, in this home.

"Minimum standards observed. Good physical care is given, although sleeping hours are a bit irregular and diet not always well balanced. There is much eating out at relatives and friends. Satisfactory sleeping arrangements. Good personal hygiene is insisted upon.

"Good habits are inculcated by example and kindly ridicule. The boarding parents demand obedience and respect, and differences of opinions are settled by discussion. The girls are made to assume and fulfill responsibilities, and have learned to be quite nice hostesses. Allowances are given to cover school clubs and incidentals and with something left over for saving. There is ample time for play and freedom to visit or have visitors, but school lessons and household duties must be done. Gifts, such as clothing and extras, are given. There is frequent and varied recreation, drives, visits, socials of all kinds at home and outside. The two girls differ greatly in intelligence, ability and personality but the boarding mother minimizes these differences and does not demand more than the girls are capable of but expects them to live up to their capacities. The girls get along well, and when they have differences of opinion they have to settle them themselves. They are happy and are fond of their boarding parents, giving them respect and consideration. The family life is wholesome and happy. Help is given in school work and the

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co-operation of the school is enlisted by boarding mother becoming acquainted with the teachers.

"Boarding mother has rented part of the house to a young married couple with two boys about three and five. They are nice boys and get along well with the girls. In fact, the girls use much of their leisure entertaining these youngsters. The boarding family has an active social life in which the girls participate.

"This home is admirable for adolescent girls of good intelligence and capable of profiting by social advantages offered."

"One girl, age 10, in this home.

"Minimum standards observed. Excellent physical care given, including attention to diet, outdoor activity, sleep, personal cleanliness.

"Standards are within limits of a child of normal intelligence, and the observance of these is insisted upon. The reasons for good habits are discussed, patience is employed in order to establish them, and training is by example rather than precept.

"Training is consistent, the boarding mother being the center of authority. The child has freedom, but must meet the responsibilities of school, play and home duties. Luxuries are wisely given; in fact, an outstanding characteristic of this home is self-restraint. The social graces, including hospitality, generosity, consideration, and refinement, are cultivated. Study and household duties fill some of the leisure time. The child is allowed to visit friends, or to have them visit; week-end trips, church and school socials contribute to recreation. Small allowances to cover school needs, etc., are given.

"Although the boarding parents have a baby to whom they are devoted, they treat the foster child as they intend to treat their son as he grows older. Comparisons with other children are not made.

"The child now in this home is completely happy; in fact, she returned to the institution from which she came to tell about her new home and how fond she was of her foster parents. Her older brother, rather prejudiced against foster homes, on meeting the foster parents immediately became friendly, was invited to room with them when he went to work and accepted their invitation. A boy who had previously been in this home for a short time was happy, liked the foster parents, and was sorry to leave.

"School and household work must be done to the best of the child's ability before play activities can be indulged in. Ideals and standards are above those of a dull and emotionally unstable child. This home is outstanding for its wholesome family life; there are calmness, practicability, kindness and firmness within it. There is a happy relationship between the child and the foster parents.

"This home is best adapted for girls over ten."

"A boy, aged 16, has been in the home since August, 1930.

"This boy's health has improved remarkably. He has developed from a weak, pale little youngster into a tall, heavy, well-developed young man. Last summer he was found every morning, and in his spare time, taking special exercises to develop his muscles (he said he wanted to become superior in strength). He lifted weights made of rocks. He ran for hours. The foster

mother is an excellent cook and prepares well-balanced meals.

"The boy has improved over 100 per cent in his personal appearance, manners and conduct since this placement. William's chief ambition is to become a naturalist and he has had free rein in this household to catch all the snakes, snails and any biological specimens that he desires, and to have them in his own room. He has mounted collections of stones and other things that the family have had in their possession for years. He takes long hikes with the family and has been free to invite his friends to the home. His little sister has visited him for several days at a time. The child attends a parochial high school and is in the second year. The family is proud to have the child attend a Catholic private school, and assist in buying school supplies and clothing. The boy attends church with the family and is very definitely a member of the family. At first he was abrupt, used slang of the streets and was discourteous to the old grandfather. He has developed poise and dignity and has excellent manners.

"Foster father has been transferred to another position by his employer. Although he returns every night to his home he does not have the time to give companionship to the boy.

"Visitor feels that this home has done excellent work with this particular child."

FOSTER PARENTS GROW MORE ARTICULATE

More than two years ago the Jewish Home Finding Society of Chicago initiated a Foster Parents Club for the purpose of providing educational and social opportunities for foster parents and a common meeting-ground for foster parents and the members of the society's staff. The following excerpt from the report of the president of the club, in which he sums up the work of the preceding year and indicates the program for the coming year, will be of interest to those agencies attempting to develop a closer relationship with the foster parents who care for their children.

"The President feels that he voices the sentiment of all those interested in the Club when he states that he views the progress the Club has made this last year with great satisfaction. The attendance at meetings has shown a steady increase. Members have shown great interest in the lectures, have asked questions freely and have participated in discussion to an encouraging degree.

"As in the previous year, the Club invited several authorities on child care to speak who had much to offer to the group. In addition to these lectures, a number of talks on problems of foster care were presented by foster parents. These contributions by foster parents had been started as an experiment, but they proved so interesting and stimulating that they were continued for several meetings. These talks indicated that when given the opportunity the foster parents themselves have much to contribute. Since the administrative problems of organization had been settled during the previous year, the Club was able to devote most of its time to the educational program.

"The program committee is already giving con-

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

President—CHENEY C. JONES, Boston
 1st Vice-President—JACOB KEPECS, Chicago
 2d Vice-President—MRS. LESSING J. ROSENWALD, Philadelphia
 3d Vice-President—MRS. SAMUEL S. DRURY, Concord, N. H.
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sideration to the program for next year. Because of the enthusiastic reception of the talks given by the foster parents, the committee plans to include more of them in next year's program. Specialists in the field of child-care will also lecture. The social committee as usual will contribute its share towards making the program an enjoyable and interesting one. Some members have felt that many foster fathers are apparently unaware of the opportunities the Club can offer them and they have launched a campaign to recruit a great number of foster fathers into the Club. The aim of the Club is to serve all foster families and it is, therefore, hoped that next year all foster parents will take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Club."

"THE IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM"

In the current number of the *Catholic Charities Review* Dr. O'Grady, under the above heading, discusses some of the weaknesses of social work in this country as revealed by administrative relief in the present situation. In concluding his arraignment, Dr. O'Grady says:

"One cannot fail to note the contrast between the standards of social work and those of education in the smaller cities and rural communities. There is this fundamental difference between the two fields: Education is the concern of every man's child, whereas social work touches only a few directly. The people as a whole are interested in education, whereas only a few are interested in social work. Therefore it is that the States as a rule have been able to guarantee to each child a certain minimum of education. When local communities have been unable to secure this minimum through local funds, they have been supplemented by the State. We are very far from this objective in social work. We have not yet guaranteed handicapped families and children certain minimum standards of care. We have merely prevented them from starving to death."

OHIO TRIES CONFERENCE RATHER THAN STATE INSPECTION FOR CINCINNATI INSTITUTIONS

The Ohio Department of Public Welfare recently experimented with the group conference plan as a means of discussing institutional problems with the Cincinnati child-caring institutions which, under the Ohio law, must be licensed by the Welfare Department. As the institutions were known to be observing proper

standards of sanitation and providing satisfactory physical care, it was felt that it might be more stimulating to have group discussion of common problems rather than to have one member of the State department visit each institution individually.

The child-caring institutions were divided into two groups, each group meeting for one session beginning at ten o'clock and running through until three-thirty with time out for lunch. The day nurseries made up a third group and the maternity homes a fourth. Board members, representatives from the various case working agencies, the central clinic, the social service exchange, the juvenile court, the public health federation and the council of social agencies attended the conferences of the groups in which they were particularly interested. A local person was asked to serve as chairman of the various sessions and two members of the State department were present throughout the four days.

The experiment in Cincinnati seemed to be sufficiently successful to warrant the conclusion that the discussion method provides an interesting means of varying the procedure through which the State expresses its interest in child-care in the larger urban centers where there is a real community of interest and social leadership.

A NEW VENTURE IN STAFF CO-OPERATION

One of the member agencies of the League has worked out a plan for mutual help which has a number of features which may commend it to other organizations. The executive prepared for the BULLETIN the following statement regarding the project:

"The staff of the agency consists of approximately 20 persons, including the executive, assistant executives, case workers, office manager, typists, file clerk, switch-board operator, etc. The staff has voluntarily established a fund through self taxation on the part of those who wish to participate in contributing to the fund. Those whose salaries are above \$1,500 tax themselves, if at all, one-half of one per cent of their salaries; those with salaries below \$1,500, at the rate of one-quarter of one per cent. Any member of the staff who wishes to borrow small sums, or requires an outright gift, may obtain same through applying to two of the five persons elected by the staff as a whole. If the two agree, the money is drawn from the fund and nothing is said to any other member of the committee or staff. If the two should disagree, and this has never happened since the fund was first established in January, 1929, recourse must be taken to the other members of the committee.

"Money has been borrowed from the fund, and repaid by borrower, to meet many different needs, such as: to make payment on a mortgage, to pay for some furniture and moving expenses, to pay for a course of study, to pay for an additional week's vacation, etc. Money has been granted from the fund, without being regarded as a loan, when to several members of the staff it seemed that some other member was in exceptional need.

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"The reason for the establishment of the fund was that it obviated the necessity, on the part of staff members, to go to loan agencies where interest would have to be paid; or to make temporary personal needs known either to strangers or to intimates. The highest amount ever drawn has been \$100. The fund itself has never totalled more, at a given time, than between \$200 and \$300. \$100 must always be left in the treasury.

"It is understood that this is not an insurance fund; that persons who contribute to it are not thereby entitled to draw upon it or to withdraw their contribution when they leave the agency; that, furthermore, persons who are unable to contribute to the fund are entitled, just as the others are, to apply for, and if the application is approved, to receive a loan or gift."

RECREATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HOUSE MOTHERS

More than fifty institution workers, mostly house mothers, attended a four-day institute on recreation held in Cleveland, December 1-4, 1931. Seventeen institutions and eight day nurseries operating in or near Cleveland were represented.

The institute sought to prepare workers to enter actively into play activities of the children. It was designed to arouse interest, to provide resources and facilities for active participation, and in a limited way to train them for real leadership in play activities. Folk games and folk songs of different countries were taught by two of the leaders.

The subjects of lectures and discussions included Social Recreation, Boy Activities, Games for Small Children, Parties for All Ages, Music, Children's Reading and Story Telling, Group Participation and Program Suggestions.

The institute was under the direction of Miss Erna D. Bunke, Secretary for Play in Institutions of the National Recreation Association. The leaders included the Director of Recreation of Lakewood, the Commissioner of Recreation of Cleveland, and representatives of the Cleveland Public Library, the Music School Settlement and the School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University.

What was presented by the leaders has had considerable immediate application. It was unanimously agreed that once a month under local leadership there is to be some continuation of the institute.

The institute was planned by three co-operating organizations, a committee of The Children's Bureau of Cleveland, the School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University and the National Recreation Association. The meetings were held at the Convent of the Good Shepherd. The principal religious groups, Catholic, Jewish and Protestant, had their institutions well represented, and the attendance included workers from non-sectarian institutions.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

the decision to be left with the chairman of the Regional Conference Committee and the Executive Director as to whether conferences will be held.

The President was authorized to appoint a special committee to confer with the Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy and other national groups regarding the proposal that the League take over the activities of the Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy and to explore the possibilities of financing the work if the League should decide to take it over.

A motion was passed accepting the standards of the League for children's aid organizations and authorizing the committee to write them in final form for publication.

Motions were passed authorizing the printing of standards for institutions as presented by the chairman of the Committee on Standards and of the Manual for Cottage Mothers in Institutions, the last two to be in tentative form subject to further discussion and criticism.

SUPERINTENDENT OF CHURCH INSTITUTION DISCUSSES ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS

(Continued from page 1)

child life is to be directed wisely and sympathetically.

"I would not in the least minimize the work that has been done and is being done through our child-caring institutions supported by our various denominations. On the contrary, I wish to remind you that many of these institutions have withstood the criticism, and have borne up under the difficulties that have confronted them and today stand as lighthouses leading us into a finer and a nobler service for dependent children."

A PRIVATE AGENCY EFFECTS A TRANSFER TO A PUBLIC UNIT

In the December number of Cleveland "Rotary" there is an interesting story regarding the development of the program for crippled children in Ohio which illustrates the practicability of demonstration by private organizations and subsequent transfer of administrative functions to public agencies equipped to carry on. Because the relationship of public and private agencies is of current interest, we quote the article from "Rotary":

"One has a feeling of satisfaction as he reviews the history of the Rotary Club of Cleveland in relation to the crippled children's movement, a feeling that the foundation of an undertaking has been firmly laid, and that the work has been carried on with wisdom and power and unselfish service.

"It was on April 15, 1919, that several members of the Rotary Club of Cleveland were present at the first annual meeting of the Rotary Club of Elyria. Following the address of the evening in which Daddy Allen made an appeal for the crippled child, a resolution was passed and recorded as follows: 'Let us tonight join hands and start in this old Buckeye State a movement which shall not stop until every unfortunate crippled child in the state has had its chance to run and play and enjoy God's beautiful world in which it lives. Surely such a task is worthy of Rotary and he who would withhold any service of himself or his means which would aid in its accomplishment is not worthy to be a Rotarian.'

"This directly led to the organizing of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children in May of the same year, and later, in 1921, to the organizing of the International Society for Crippled Children. In both of these organizations members of the Cleveland Club have unselfishly given their untiring support.

"In January, 1921, through the influence of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, the first state laws pertaining to the care and education of the crippled child were enacted, and it was only through the persistent efforts of the Rotary Clubs of Elyria, Toledo, and Cleveland that these laws were made possible. About 4,000 telegrams were sent from the offices of the Cleveland Club in getting this important legislation passed.

"In the fall of 1919, the Cleveland Club sent its first crippled child to the Gates Memorial Hospital in Elyria. This one was followed by several other children. In October, 1922, the Club undertook to extend its services and took over the supervision of those children in Cuyahoga County residing outside of the Community Fund area. A field secretary was employed and an office was established at the headquarters of the Association for the Crippled and Disabled. A survey was made of the crippled children in this district, and in February, 1923, a clinic was held at the Orthopaedic Center under the auspices of the Academy of Medicine. Sixty-six children were examined. The first year 193 children were reported, while 829 have been referred to the agency qualified to do this work, thus giving the Rotary Club an opportunity to undertake and develop some other project. With the approval of the Division of Charities, the Cuyahoga County Child Welfare Board has agreed to assume the responsibility of supervising the indigent crippled children who are now being committed to the state. The staff now employed by the Rotary Club will be transferred to the County Child Welfare Board to do the work which will be taken over by them on January 1, 1932.

"The Rotary Club of Cleveland has kept faith and will continue to keep faith with the resolution made years ago. Although it has completed an outstanding piece of work, demonstrating the possibility of co-ordination between a public and private agency, its activities will not cease. Locally it will bring joy and hope to many a crippled child through the annual picnic, distribution of Christmas remembrances, and by many other personal services, and will continue to act as a stimulus in the advancement of the cause of the handicapped child everywhere.

"We will keep on keeping on."

National Conference of Social Work, Philadelphia, May 15-21, 1932

"A PROBLEM CHILD" OR MERELY A CHILD WITH PROBLEMS

All who speak glibly of "problem children" are likely to be sobered by the first chapter of "Children's Behavior Problems," by Luton Ackerson, Research Psychologist, Illinois Institute for Juvenile Research and Behavior Research Fund, published in 1931 by the University of Chicago Press. The book gives statistical pictures of the great variety of problems of five thousand children who were examined by the Institute for Juvenile Research. Valuable as all these pictures may be, it is the introductory chapter which will mean most to the average social worker.

The nature of the problems and the infrequency with which certain serious ones appeared may be surprising. "Only a small portion, about 17 per cent of the boys and 11 per cent of the girls, had a record of police arrest or juvenile court appearance for reasons of misconduct, and even in these cases it seemed that the reason for their being referred for a clinical examination usually arose from their behavior in the home or neighborhood or at school rather than because of the court contact per se." Yet many of the children were credited with a considerable assortment of problems.

Whether a child have many problems or few, it is unfair and fruitless to tag him as a problem child or to concentrate exclusively on any one problem, no matter how obvious or important it may seem. "The reason why any simple description of a child in terms of a single behavior problem or reason for referring, or even as a 'behavior problem case,' is impracticable becomes evident when one studies the case record material. The number of behavior difficulties or reasons for referring for any child may vary from a single item, e. g., *enuresis*, *'nervousness'*, *masturbation*, *night terrors*, *advice re suitability for adoption*, *vocational guidance*, *'suspected feeble-mindedness'*, *marked reading disability*, *lack of interest in school work*, and the like, up to a complex of a hundred or more fairly discrete problems and questions.

To attempt to select which of several problems is the major one in a given child would not be feasible and probably not very useful in view of the present status of our knowledge of children's behavior difficulties. For our present purposes it seems best to dispense with any simple categories, and to describe a child only in terms of all the knowledge which we possess about him. Furthermore, in respect to the number of behavior problems, the children appear to form a graduated and continuous series ranging from a child with no notation of either a personality or a conduct problem (275 cases out of 5,000 white and Negro children) up to two children with 99 personality and conduct problems each. To determine a point or even a zone on such a continuous scale beyond which a child becomes a 'problem child' is manifestly impossible. The only

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utility of the term 'problem child' appears to lie in indicating the attitude to be taken toward him. It is just as logical to speak of a 'tonsil-and-adenoid child' or a 'needs-a-haircut child.'—H. W. HOPKIRK.

FROM THE PAGES OF A LATE BOOK

"Health Protection for the Preschool Child," one of the recent publications of the White House Conference, shows how little the thoroughly tried measures of preventive medicine, such as vaccination against smallpox and immunization against diphtheria and general medical examinations, are being applied to children under six years of age.

"Our information would indicate in general," the report says, "that there are abundant facilities for carrying out these recognized preventive measures throughout a large part of the country and that the supply is greater than the demand; that parents are interested in health examinations for their babies, but very much less so for the older children; that they are fairly favorable toward vaccination, and more so for the older children than the babies. Toward diphtheria immunization they show slightly less interest, more for the younger than the older children.

"Physicians were asked about the attitude of parents toward health examinations. In their opinion, while many were willing to bring their babies to be looked over, as they grew older, and perhaps as new babies arrived, the parents lost interest, till toward the school age very few would do it. In the physicians' opinion this was because they failed to see the necessity, and, while the cost was an element, it was secondary."

TRAINING FOR DAY NURSERY WORK

The day nursery as an agency for child development and social welfare is the subject of a course given under the auspices of the Child Development Institute, Teachers College, Columbia University, during the winter session, 1931-32, on Saturday from 11.00 to 12.50 at the Institute, 514 West 126th Street. It is planned for those engaged in day nursery work, including directors, superintendents, members of boards, etc., and will include a study of budget, equipment and personnel as well as child development and parent education. The course will be conducted by the staff of the Institute, including administrator, psychologist, nutritionist, pediatrician, nurse and teachers, and by workers directly connected with the day nursery field.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

CONNECTICUT—Diocesan Bureau of Social Service, Hartford. Miss Marguerite T. Boylan, Executive Secretary, resigned. Successor to be announced later.

ILLINOIS—Chicago Orphan Asylum, Chicago. New address: 4911 Lake Park Avenue.

WISCONSIN—Catholic Social Welfare Bureau, Milwaukee. New address: 625 N. Milwaukee Street.

COURT PROCEDURE IN ILLEGITIMACY CASES

Editor's note: At a joint session of the Children's Division of the National Conference of Social Work and the Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy in Minneapolis last June discussion centered around reports that had been obtained from a number of cities on court procedure and case work in illegitimacy cases with special reference to the father. As the processes being utilized in different parts of the country are of interest to all agencies dealing with the problem, we are printing the summaries prepared by the committee in charge of this session for five of the cities co-operating in the inquiry.

Do the courts having jurisdiction in your community provide social handling of cases establishing paternity of children of illegitimate birth, and enforcing support? If not, what objectionable features of the proceedings need to be changed for the safeguarding of the persons involved?

Boston. Domestic Relations Department, Municipal Court, has a staff of six men and two women. The women interview, investigate, and prepare illegitimacy cases for court and supervise mother and child. Trials held in small room, complainant, defendant and witnesses and court officials at judges' bench—in effect a private hearing, except that all domestic relations court cases on day's list are present in room at same time. Another objectionable feature is the rotating of judges (15 in all, sitting from one to three weeks). Two or three specially qualified, sitting continuously, would be better.

Cleveland. The general agreement in Cleveland is to refer all illegitimacy cases to a private agency, the Cleveland Humane Society, which is the only agency equipped to give the necessary case work and legal service.

Detroit. No. Prosecuting attorney's office employs a social worker to take complaints and review evidence. On basis of this evidence she decides whether a warrant shall be issued. Case must be heard later in open court, which is an objectionable feature of court procedure.

Milwaukee. Civil court handling illegitimacy cases works in conjunction with social agencies. More privacy is desirable.

St. Paul. All cases are referred to the Child Welfare Board for investigation. A desirable change would be to allow an alleged father willing to plead guilty to waive proceedings in Municipal Court and permit an immediate hearing in the chambers of the District Court.

Should provision be made for adjustment of cases of establishment of paternity and support by court workers or other public officials, county public welfare boards, etc., without official court hearings in cases where the man is willing to admit paternity and to make payments for the support of the child?

Boston. Variance of opinion, but we as court workers believe court action proper method.

Cleveland. Yes.

Detroit. Yes. In case of lump-sum settlements, they can be handled satisfactorily with approval of prosecuting attorney and board of poor commissioners. In case of weekly payments, continuing over a long period, it is preferable that the case be handled officially.

Milwaukee. Adjustment may be made by district attorney with judge's approval.

St. Paul. Minnesota law recognizes a stipulation between an acknowledged father of an illegitimate child and the State Board of Control (or the child's legal guardian) without court action, but with approval of court. This works satisfactorily and appears to be the minimum amount of formality desirable.

(a) *What is the policy of your court regarding determination of paternity and assessing support when it is claimed that several men have had relations with the mother at about the time of conception?* (b) *What is policy of social agencies?* (c) *Would you favor a law holding more than one man responsible for support in such cases? State advantages and disadvantages.*

Boston. (a) No prosecution. (b) Responsibility for support should be apportioned. (c) No, because biologically it is possible for only one man to be the father of the child. Advantages: Relieve the State of the burden of support of the child. Disadvantages: Against public policy, unfair to child.

Cleveland. (a) No provision in State law for dividing responsibility. Support and liability for expenses dependent upon fact of reputed paternity. (b) In a few instances social agencies arrange that several men involved divide expenses incurred by mother by reason of pregnancy. In rare cases the social agency arranges with the several men involved for the support of the child; willingness of several men or boys to share costs only basis for dividing responsibility. (c) Considerable difference of opinion. Attorney of private agency favors divided responsibility if necessary for the expenses of the mother but not for the support of the child.

Detroit. (a) Unless responsibility can be attached to one man, a warrant is not issued. (b) Policy of agencies and court the same. (c) No.

Milwaukee. (a) No action unless one of men wishes to make voluntary settlement with denial of paternity. (b) No responsibility for settlement, as all cases are referred to district attorney. (c) Serious questions on both sides.

St. Paul. (a) No complaint accepted in the county until the county attorney is reasonably sure who the

father of the child is. If several men had relations with the mother about the time of conception, no court action is taken and, therefore, no support is obtained for the child. (b) To co-operate with the Child Welfare Board in illegitimacy matters. (c) Debatable. Considerable more thought necessary before a satisfactory answer could be given.

JUVENILES VIOLATING FEDERAL LAWS

The Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is one of a considerable number of agencies that have worked in co-operation with the office of the Federal District Attorney of the district in which Brooklyn is located, in dealing with juveniles violating Federal laws, a subject that had considerable publicity in connection with one of the reports of the Wickersham Commission. This co-operation has been mainly evidenced in the prosecution of crimes against juveniles. In all cases where juveniles are involved in a violation of the Federal law known as the "Mann Act" and also where the Federal District Attorney may be prosecuting juveniles for offenses, such as larceny of automobiles, the Brooklyn Society has for many years received these boys and girls in its shelter for temporary care and protection on a remand at the request of the Federal District Attorney's office. As a rule, the Federal District Attorney has desired that these children should be cared for in the localities where they were apprehended for enforcement of the Federal statutes which have been violated, instead of being returned to the communities from which they have come for care or supervision or punishment by the State authorities, as indicated in the circular letter of the Federal Attorney General dated August 14, 1931.

The readiness of the Brooklyn Society to co-operate with the Federal authorities is an evidence of the fact that there is likely to be very little difficulty in working out co-operative arrangements with social agencies and institutions working with juveniles. A special report of the Wickersham Commission which recently disclosed the terrible manner in which children were being cared for in many parts of the United States should lead to a better co-operation with the existing agencies as to make neglectful or abusive treatment on the part of the Federal authorities unnecessary.

The Child Study Association of America, 221 West 57th Street, New York, which is indefatigable in its efforts to give the children of this country well-informed and understanding parents and teachers, has just issued its sixth edition of "A Selected List of Books." This list, which contains over five hundred titles, will be of value to parents, teachers and children's workers. The new pamphlet can be had for thirty-five cents.

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